

# **SPARK GAP**

Vol. 29, Issue 8, August 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-eight Years*

## **On Our MARC...**

Wasn't the summer short? Well, if you've measured the time by the number of record-temperature days, probably not short enough. If, on the other hand, you've measured it by the passing of days on the calendar, the diminishing amount of daylight, and the appearance of school buses, then probably so. For me, when August 11th arrived and it was time for our second, one-day Tech class, I became keenly aware that time had really flown since we agreed on the date, last spring.

After a long and very successful day, 19 people passed their tests late Saturday afternoon. Congrats to all on your achievement. Thanks to all who contributed their time and talents this weekend to help advance amateur radio.

A couple of quick reminders... At the meeting on 8/18, we will have the annual nomination of candidates for club officers. Election ballots will be sent out by e-mail this year. The winners will be announced at the club picnic.

Speaking of the picnic, don't forget to mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 15th. As is our tradition, our regular meeting on that date will be replaced with a pitch-in cookout at the home of Steve Brown, N9LC. So, bring yourself, your family, and a dish to share and we'll see you there.

Bob - KC9NJM  
*President*

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## **MARC YOUR CALENDAR**

**2012**

**M.A.R.C. ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>,**

**AT THE HOME OF STEVE BROWN, N9LC.**

**Starts at 11:30 AM, bring you family for the pitch-in/cookout and  
your favorite pitch-in dish you would like to share. Directions to  
Steve's house will be on the MARC website.**

# MARC Tech Class August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012



Photo by Jack Parker, W8ISH

## Full House

### Tech class:

They came from near and far to cram ten weeks of knowledge into an eight hour class. Twenty-one men, women and children sacrificed a long Saturday to listen and earn their Technician Class Amateur Radio license.

Pumped up on free coffee, juice and donuts the astute group listened and learned the rules, regulations and technology that makes Amateur Radio a unique hobby as compared to Citizens Band and GMRS radios.

At day's end nineteen of twenty-one students passed their test. The wife of one club member joined the test session and earned her Tech Class license as well.

According to club secretary Bruce Tisdale-K9ICP, thirty-one people registered for the class. Twenty-one showed up and nineteen passed giving us an 86% pass rate for our second One-day-class this year. We have generated thirty-six new hams from our two classes this year.

Our thanks to all the instructors and to Rhonda Curtis-WS9H and our VE team for a successful test session.

Now that the easy part is over, we encourage every club member to embrace and mentor these new people so they too can enjoy the fun of Amateur Radio and the Mid-State ARC.

..... Jack W8ISH

## Class pictures:



Bruce Meters



Donut Dilemma



Ellis Answers Questions



Ellis Chalk Talk



Question One



Rhonda Rules & Regs

Photos by Jack Parker .... W8ISH

## What Other HAMS are doing for Amateur Radio?

**KB9BVN** ----- Brian

This month most of my activity has been spent on helping with a group of hams that are going to be activating Ernie Pyle Island in Owen County. They will be operating from there from Aug 3 through Aug 5th. They will be operating HF, VHF, UHF, and using DSTAR, CW, PSK 31, PACKET, and SSB. They will be operating under call sign W9I.

I am also working on a kit build of the Ten Tec TT-1340 QRP CW transceiver and showing the build out steps on my website ([kb9bvn.net](http://kb9bvn.net)).

I am also happy to report my involvement with helping a group of central Indiana hams get an amateur radio station established at Camp Belzer on the northeast side of Indy. We are working to make this station a permanent installation at the Boy Scout Camp and we hope to be on the air for the 2012 JOTA event in October. The radio station will operate under the call sign of WD9BSA.

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LaFayette Hamfest

Sunday August 19, 2012

8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tippecanoe Co. Fairgrounds

PO Box 8081, Lafayette IN 47905

Please check the TARA website for updates:

<http://www.W9REG.org>

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Bruce's Feed Line

## FCC Denies Petition Seeking to Designate Nationwide Emergency Calling Frequency

Saying that it believes that the Amateur Service "allows flexibility to provide emergency communications in a way that takes into account channel availability and other local conditions," the FCC [denied a Petition for Rulemaking to create a nationwide emergency calling frequency](#). The [Petition](#) -- filed by Bryan Boyle, WB0YLE, of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, and Jim Dixon, WB6NIL, of Alhambra, California -- called upon the FCC to designate 146.550 MHz as a "non-exclusive nationwide Amateur Radio Service emergency communications channel using FM wideband modulation."

Doyle and Dixon noted in their Petition that other services, such as the Citizens Band Radio Service, the Aviation Service and the Maritime Service have specific channels set aside for emergency communications. They claimed that use of these channels "to good effect by those in distress [and that this] is a testament to the need for individual services to have a readily accessible and publicized" emergency communications channel. In denying the Petition, the FCC said in part that Boyle and Dixon "had not shown an existing problem that would be addressed by a rule change designating a nationwide Amateur Service emergency calling frequency."

The FCC told Boyle and Dixon that the rules of the Amateur Radio Service allow "an amateur station to transmit one-way messages necessary to providing emergency communications," maintaining that these messages may "be transmitted on any frequency authorized [by] the control operator of the amateur stations transmitting the messages. Additionally, the rules require that, at all times and on all frequencies, each control operator must give priority to stations providing emergency communications. Administration of these rules is accomplished primarily through voluntary frequency planning by, and cooperation among, Amateur Radio operators." -- ARRL Letter August 2012

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## GREENWOOD MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2012

The annual Greenwood Marching Band Invitational is coming up this September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Greenwood High School located at West Smith Valley Road in Greenwood. The Greenwood Band Parent Association is requesting the assistance of Amateur Radio Operators to help provide parking and public safety during this event.

Usually there are 15 to 20 bands participating in this ISSMA marching band contest. Most marching bands travel with truck loads of equipment, props for their show and many marching band players. This competition is part of the ISSMA requirements for the high school marching bands to move on to the other levels of competition and hopefully the State Marching Band finals in Indianapolis in October.

You will need to bring your favorite HT, extra battery pack, comfortable shoes, a chair, sun screen, safety vest and a flashlight with a wand to direct traffic. The event will operate on two meter simplex 146.550 and using low power. This event is a good exercise if amateur radio was needed for public safety of reporting of conditions in a defined area. All amateurs are welcome to help with this event and many are needed to make this work. Food will be available at no cost at the high school for all that participate.

Please contact Bob N9SIU if you can help, email [n9siu@arrl.net](mailto:n9siu@arrl.net) or phone (317) 908-8402.

## 2012 Indiana Hamfests

<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Cabin Fever Hamfest</b> , LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte IN, 7 AM till 1 PM CST, <a href="http://k9jsi.org/">http://k9jsi.org/</a> , Info <a href="mailto:N9ROH@csinet.net">N9ROH@csinet.net</a>
<b>Feb 25</b>	Brownsburg Hamfest, American Legion Post 331, Brownsburg IN, 6AM-3:30PM, Talk-in 147.015+, Contact: K9MSG <a href="mailto:ducas002@indy.rr.com">ducas002@indy.rr.com</a>
<b>March 3</b>	<b>Dugger Hamfest</b> , Dugger Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Road 54) Dugger, IN 47848, <a href="http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html">http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html</a>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>Terre Haute Hamfest</b> , Indiana State University Dede Activity Center, Terre Haute IN, <a href="http://w9uuu.org/">http://w9uuu.org/</a>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest</b> , Community Building in Columbus, Indiana <a href="http://www.carcnet.org/">http://www.carcnet.org/</a>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>North Central Indiana Hamfest</b> , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & Mexico Road, Peru IN <a href="http://www.nci-hamfest.net/">http://www.nci-hamfest.net/</a>
<b>July 14</b>	<b>Indianapolis Hamfest</b> , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, <a href="http://www.indyhamfest.com">http://www.indyhamfest.com</a>
<b>August 19</b>	<b>LaFayette Hamfest</b> , 8AM to 1PM <a href="http://www.W9REG.org">http://www.W9REG.org</a>
<b>Oct. 6</b>	<b>Hoosier Hills Hamfest</b> , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , <a href="http://www.w9qyq.org/">http://www.w9qyq.org/</a>
<b>Nov. 17-18</b>	<b>Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest &amp; Computer Expo</b> , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, <a href="http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com">http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com</a>



# MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

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**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL Tone**

**Club Officers:**  
**President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM**  
**Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT**  
**Secretary: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP**  
**Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**  
**Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP**

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS**

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***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club***

**P.O. Box 836**  
**Franklin, Indiana**  
**46131**

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***

***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month***

